

REMARKS**Regarding the Claim Amendments**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 5, 15, 16, 20, 28, 29, 31-34 and 36 are amended, claim 35 is cancelled, and new claim 37 is added. Applicants have elected Species 1, which reads on claims 1-34 and 36-37.

Claims 5, 15, 16, 20, 28, 29, 31-34 and 36 have been amended, in part, to correct informalities and conform the claims to formal U.S. patent practice, such amendments do not constitute new matter. Support for the new and amended claims can be found throughout the specification and claims of the application as originally filed, and, in particular, on pages 6-12, in their entirety (see especially page 12, lines 14-16); page 20, lines 7-21; pages 24-25; and Example 1. No new matter is believed to have been added.

**Regarding the Election of Species and Unity of Invention**

As required by the outstanding Office Action, Applicants have elected Species 1 as set forth by the Examiner. However, the Applicants note that the Examiner has, in addition to requiring an election of a species of the claims acknowledged to be generic by the Examiner, also stated that the species encompassed by the claims allegedly lack unity of invention under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2. The Applicants assert that the present claims do not lack unity of invention and have amended the claims in order to more clearly highlight the “special technical features” linking the claims. The Applicants note that the claims, as amended, are in accordance with PCT Rule 13.4 which states:

It shall be permitted to include in the same international application a reasonable number of dependent claims, claiming specific forms of the invention claimed in an independent claim, *even where the features of any dependent claim could be considered as constituting in themselves an invention.* (Emphasis Added)

**Regarding the Specification Amendments**

The specification has been amended to insert the paragraph "Cross Reference to Related Applications". This inserted paragraph reflects the correct priority information for the present application and, as such does not constitute new matter.

Upon entry into the national phase of the present application, Applicants inadvertently listed an incorrect International Filing Date and Priority Date Claimed on the initial Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 April 6, 2001. The correct dates should be OCTOBER 6, 1999 and OCTOBER 7, 1998, respectively. The typographical error and its correction are obvious due to the fact that the International Application published under the Patent Cooperation Treaty clearly states the correct dates as indicated above. This error should not affect the filing in any way.

In keeping with current USPTO practice, an Application Data Sheet is also being submitted herewith. The Application Data Sheet reflects an updated Atty. Docket No, addresses of inventors, and correct International Filing Date. The Applicants note that the Customer Number for the undersigned is also provided.

Under separate cover, Applicants will be requesting a corrected Filing Receipt for the above-identified application in which the Atty. Docket No. is updated, Applicants field is corrected and Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant field is corrected and, are also requesting a corrected Notice of Acceptance of Application in which the I.A. Filing Date field is corrected and Atty. Docket No. is updated. Each of these corrections is in keeping with the Application Data Sheet submitted herewith, and the Cross Reference to Related Applications.

**Regarding the Priority Document**

A certified copy of the priority document (Canadian Pat. App. No. 2,246,623) noted by the Examiner is co-filed herewith.

**Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)**

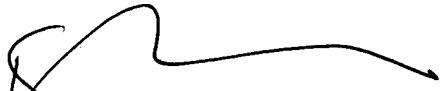
The Applicants note that an IDS, PTO-1449 and 37 references were filed with the Office on August 16, 2001. In the event that these documents have not been matched with the file, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned and copies of the IDS, PTO-1449 and references will be provided upon request.

CONCLUSIONS

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 514012000100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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